



North Central Region
Civil Air Patrol

North Central Region News

Volume 2006

October



South Dakota Wing Supports Vietnam Memorial Dedication

Sixty South Dakota Wing officers and cadets worked in support of the dedication of the State of South Dakota's Vietnam Veterans Memorial September 15-16. Over 32,000 people jammed the grounds of the state capitol for the ceremony, parade and related activities.

Twelve CAP officers worked full time over the weekend escorting people to and from Huey helicopters that gave rides, a highlight of the events for many of the Vietnam veterans in attendance. CAP members also assisted with a private ceremony for family members who lost loved ones in Vietnam. Two hundred eighteen South Dakota soldiers lost their lives in Vietnam and over 900 family members attended the ceremony. CAP cadets escorted the family members as they arrived for seating. Cadets C/2Lt Libby Marking & C/TSgt Bojan Salihagic assisted in a wreath-laying during the ceremony.

The memorial consists of a life-sized bronze sculpture of a Vietnam War era soldier. A similar bronze of a Korean War soldier was dedicated in 2004. World War II veterans are remembered on the capitol grounds by six life-size bronze sculptures of soldiers from each branch of military service.

Region Conference Nears

CAP members from across the region will gather in Des Moines October 27-28 for the North Central Region Conference.

The NCR Conference, typically held every two years, is an opportunity to get first hand information from region staff and leading CAP members from across the region. The conference is NOT just for wing and region staff members. All members are encouraged to attend.

Learning Labs will include the North Central Liaison Region, Recruiting & Retention, Region CAC Meeting, Cadet Lab, Operations, Professional Development, Logistics, Safety, Communications, Critical Incident Stress Management, and Public Affairs.

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Four Points at Des Moines International Airport. Registration information is in the North Central Region website at: ncr.cap.gov
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Chaplain Hamilton to Retire at Region Conference

Chaplain (Lt. Colonel) James Hamilton has announced his retirement from CAP, effective Saturday, October 28, during the North Central Region Conference in Des Moines.

Hamilton is deputy region chaplain and a longtime member, serving nearly half of the Nebraska Wing Commanders. He has also been chaplain at the National Flight Academy and Weather Schools held in Nebraska and has been present at almost every Nebraska SAREX and REDCAP serving as a counselor, on a Ground Team or as a mission observer. As a staff member for many years on the NCR Chaplain's Staff College, he provided the leadership and support to make the College memorable and educational.

"I have never known such a selfless and sacrificial person in CAP," said CAP Gen. Richard Anderson, former national commander, "and Jim's retirement will be a loss for our organization. He leaves a proud legacy, though, and the thousands of CAP lives that he touched for so many decades will in turn touch many others for years to come--and in that way, Jim will continue to influence CAP lives in a positive and meaningful way."

Chaplain Hamilton will conduct the Chaplain's breakout session at the North Central Region Conference. Members will honor Chaplain and Mrs (1st LT) Hamilton at the Awards portion of the NCR Conference on Saturday evening. The James and Dorothy Hamilton say they are moving to Mississippi to be closer to family, resulting in the decision to retire from CAP.



"Commander's Call" by Col. Steve Kuddes

October 27th and 28th is rapidly approaching and the plans have been made for the North Central Region Conference. Now it's time for you to make plans to attend.

Held every two years, this is the opportunity for members from throughout the Region to gather together to share opinions, programs and fellowship. This year we will have numerous members from our National

Headquarters in attendance for safety, Drug Demand Reduction, Cadet Programs and Professional Development presentations. The North Central Region staff will also be present for presentations and consultation with Wing staff members. Much of the information being presented is new and from changes that have been made to some of the programs. It is imperative that Wing staff members attend.

Wing Commanders will be in attendance for meetings with the North Central Region Vice Commander, Colonel Tom Weston. The State Directors and the North Central Liaison Region staff will be present to meet and assist us in any way possible.

A number of the past North Central Region Commanders will be present for a luncheon and to visit with current members.

The North Central Region Staff will meet for about one hour on Sunday morning.

Our special guest is slated to be our new National Vice Commander, BG Amy Courter. General Courter is the first female National Vice Commander in the history of CAP.

Conference registrations forms are available on the NCR website. They need to be completed and mailed before October 20th.

It has been some time since the last NCR Conference so let's make this conference a very memorable one!

Body of Missing Pilot Found in North Dakota

The body of Robert (Bob) Nelson, 60, of Otter Tail Lake, Minn., was found October 3. Nelson and his Piper Cherokee were reported missing on an outbound flight from Bismark, ND. He was the subject of a marathon search by North Dakota Wing, assisted by Minnesota Wing and South Dakota wing.

Nelson's body was discovered by in Diamond Lake near Kulm, ND, by U.S. Fish and Wildlife workers using a air boat similar to those used in swamps. The aircraft had disappeared from radar near Kulm.

Duluth Composite Squadron Aircrew Directs Searchers to Downed Ultralight Pilot

The U.S. Air Force has authorized Save awards for an aircrew with Minnesota Wing for a successful search and rescue mission near Ely, Minn., on Sept. 13.

The award is issued to CAP personnel when a search results in a rescue.

Wooded terrain obscured much of the crashed plane to which a Duluth Composite Squadron aircrew led rescuers to early Sept. 13 near Ely, Minn.

Pilot Alan Coulson, 60, of Ely was reported overdue after his homebuilt ultralight aircraft left Ely Municipal Airport at 5:30 pm. Sept. 12 to practice touch-and-go landings. Airport staff were notified of an aircraft transponder signal being picked up near a runway.

Once an actual distress situation was verified, air and ground crews from Minnesota Wing's Du-



luth Composite Squadron were dispatched to assist in the search for Coulson and his plane. In addition, CAP squadrons in Grand Rapids and Brainerd were placed on standby to assist.

A CAP aircrew from Duluth was launched at 1 am. and picked up the signal 20 minutes later. The aircrew landed at Ely and helped coordinate search and rescue efforts with the St. Louis County Rescue Squad, Ely Airport staff, Ely police and fire departments, Morse first responders and the Babbitt Police Department.

After Coulson could be heard in the woods shouting for help, "the CAP plane went airborne again and was able to lead ground rescue personnel to the site where the pilot, who had a hand-held transponder, was extricated and transported to Ely-Bloomenson hospital with a broken leg," said Capt. Paul Pieper, the CAP incident commander. "The CAP ground team was en route when Coulson was rescued."

Aircrew members Maj. Gary Lemasters, Maj. Charles Schumacher, and Lt. Mark Johnston were awarded Save medals.

Ground team members included Lt. Col. Keith Bischoff, Sr. Mbr. Christina Dalbec, Cadet Kelly Wright, Cadet Scott Wright and Cadet Robert Young.

Kansas Wing Cadets Pitch in at Naturalization Ceremony

Civil Air Patrol cadets from the Kansas Wing's Lawrence Composite Squadron helped welcome 75 new U.S. citizens during a naturalization service in September at the University of Kansas Dole Center.

Cadets Kara Hacker, Brandon Miller, Nathan Petrie and Alec Van Zuiden presented the colors and led the 75 in their first Pledge of Allegiance as Americans.

The ceremony marked the fourth year that the U.S. District Court has asked the unit to participate in the naturalization proceedings. Chief Judge John W. Lungstrum said the court is always impressed by the young people in CAP and their dedication to America.

The ceremony capped off two very busy weeks for the Lawrence unit. On Saturday, Sept. 9, members assisted with an open house at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Kan., and were able to participate in a special meeting with Maj. Nicole Malachowski and Maj. Ted Clark of the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds before the flight team's performance.

The pilots -- both former CAP cadets and graduates of the U.S. Air Force Academy -- spoke of the importance of teamwork and focus in order to reach your dreams.

The same week, the cadets participated in powered flight orientation rides. Over the weekend, they worked at the Annual KC Aviation Expo in Kansas City, Mo., along with several other CAP units from Kansas and Missouri.

ncr.cap.gov



Iowa Wing Searches for Missing College Student

Iowa Wing joined a multi-agency search for Grinnell College student Paul Shuman-Moore, age 20, who was last seen on the college campus September 25. Shuman-Moore has not yet been found, as of this writing.

A CAP staging area was established at Grinnell Airport (GGI). Col. Gene Kellogg served Wednesday as the CAP Response Coordinator, helping to direct the CAP resources. Maj. John Halbrook folded into the planning section at the Incident Command Post at Grinnell College and other CAP officers aided in various support functions at the ICP.

Aircraft from Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, and Davenport flew in support of the search operation.

Two ground teams went out on assignments to investigate possible areas of interest and several GTL's conducted training for spontaneous SAR volunteers at the Staging Area.

Forty officers and cadets were deployed as a part of this mission. Forty five additional officers and cadets stood ready to respond should the mission have continued.

New NCR Patriotism Award Announced

North Central Region Commander Col. Steve Kuddes has announced establishment of the Sgt. Philip J. Svitak Memorial American Patriot Award, to be presented for the first time at the North Central Region Conference this month.

Svitak, a former Nebraska Wing Cadet, was killed in Afghanistan where he was serving in famed Night Stalkers based at Fort Campbell, KY.

"The last thing he told his parents before leaving," said Kuddes, "was that if he died they should know it was an honor dying for his country and fighting terrorism."

Svitak was a crew chief and door gunner on a Chinook helicopter. In March 2002, his team responded to a "man down" distress call from another helicopter. As they came into the area, they could see the downed Navy seal and helicopter. As they prepared to land they spotted Taliban fighters preparing to assault the Seal and their landing. Svitak maintained his post at the door gun taking out Taliban fighters but taking concentrated gun fire himself. Refusing to leave his gun, Svitak was killed but the crew of his helicopter credit him with saving their lives. The pilot of the helicopter tells an amazing story of heroism, leading Svitak to be considered for the Congressional Medal of Honor. The battle was during Operation Anaconda and is known as "Robert's Ridge."

"Phil was a cadet in my hometown squadron when I was the squadron commander," said Kuddes. "He was a young man who progressed in the cadet program but excelled in emergency services. He was the most impressive cadet that I have ever seen as a ground team member. Phil also started a benefit mountain bicycle race at his hometown of Joplin, Missouri. The race is still held with members of the Night Stalker crew competing in the race to honor Phil."

The new award will be given annually to a deserving member or squadron of the North Central Region who exemplifies Svitak's patriotism. Criteria include dedication to country and to CAP as well a committed spirit to the patriotic ideals of this country.

"This will be one of the most prestigious awards we will ever award," proclaimed Kuddes. "It is named for a true American hero who lived the motto we all know....'that others may live.'"

The first recipient has been selected and will receive the award at the NCR Conference on October 28. Phil Svitak's mother will present the award and the letter from the helicopter pilot detailing the heroism of Phil Svitak will be read.

Trouble Finding Online OPSEC Training?

- Go to www.cap.gov using Internet Explorer
- Select "members" then "operations" then go to "operations online courses and exams".
- At the online course and exam page you will find "OPSEC" at the top of the page. Click on that and you can complete the training.



South Dakota Wing Supports Black Hills Marathon

In the early morning of October 8, runners took to the road for simultaneous Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Marathons in the Black Hills. One hundred twenty-four runners completed the course. Close to 800 people participated in the marathon and in coordinated half marathon and 5k walk/run events.

The road events culminated a three-day schedule of tourist activities for the participants from across the country. The multiple routes included Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial and sections of the Mickelson Trail that follows former railroad right of way.

South Dakota Wing members, particularly from the Black Hills area units, have assisted with marathon traffic control for fifteen years.

Twin Cities Units Join in Joint Search for Missing Man

Members of multiple Twin Cities Squadrons joined together with the Edina police & fire departments to search for an elderly man who had disappeared September 14. Approximately 100 searchers, one CAP aircrew, and several dog teams searched a large local wooded park and lake near Flying Cloud Airport for the missing man.

Initial reports had the man, who suffers from dementia, walking in the park near his home. Searchers with dogs, ground teams on foot, and the aircrew combed the trails, muddy lake shore, and brushy hillsides to no avail. Exactly 24 hours after the man disappeared, and with hope of a successful outcome fading, he was found in good health by his wife and children who saw him walking outside, getting his afternoon mail (as he always does) at 2:30 pm.. The man had become confused and spent the night and day at a neighbors house that was left unlocked while they were on vacation, thinking it was his house.



Nebraska Squadron Commander rated "Outstanding" in Squadron Officer School

Capt. Barbara Nitz, commander of the North Platte Squadron of Nebraska Wing, has completed an 18-month Air Force course designed for Air Force and CAP officers.

Nitz received an "outstanding" rating for the scores she achieved in each of the five sections of the course.

The course, Squadron Officer School, is a Professional Military Education course designed to enhance professional development and advancement in rank by career Air Force and CAP officers. It consists of instruction in five areas -- leadership and management, military studies, communications, international studies and the profession of arms.

Squadron Officer School prepares participants for future upper level management opportunities.



Joint Dakota encampment Website Online

The website for the Joint Dakota Cadet Encampment is online and updated for this summer's encampment, according to Capt. Mike Mouw, encampment commander.

Staff applications are now open for the encampment, to be held July 7-15. The encampment, a joint project of the North Dakota and South Dakota Cadet Programs meets alternate years at Camp Grafton, ND and Camp Rapid, SD.

The website address is:

<http://cadets.ndcap.org/JDCLE>

Region Conference Continued from Page 1

"Our conference is for the officers and cadets of the Civil Air Patrol," said Col. Steve Kuddes, NCR commander. "I don't want a conference where the officers go one way and the cadets go another. This is our organization, the officer's and cadet's organization. That is why all activities will be available to anyone in attendance.

The region commander added that by his order there will not be a cash bar at the Friday evening mixer or prior to the banquet Saturday night.

"Cadets will be present," said Kuddes, "and I believe it is not professional in our duties to have alcohol present. Besides, if we have to have alcohol served to have a good time and successful conference, we have a big problem."

Kuddes noted that the policy mirrors the non-alcohol policy he adopted as Nebraska Wing Commander in the early 90s.



Saint Paul Squadron holds largest Camp Curry Weekend ever!

The Saint Paul Composite Squadron completed their largest cadet Camp Curry weekend October 6~7, 2006 at the South Saint Paul Airport (KSGS). This graduating class was special because there were four cadet leaders who attended this course in the past and returned as instructors and mentors, and shouldered much of the training for the proud (and grateful) officers who had done it all in the past. There were 10 graduates of this camp, the largest yet. The Saint Paul Cadet Squadron has grown from just seven cadets this past year to 31 at last count!

Classes were conducted on CAP history, rules for membership, communications, what it takes to be a good cadet and much more. Many hours were spent on physical fitness, marching procedures, reporting to an officer, and general military bearing. In addition, cadets were taken to the uniform supply hangar and each was outfitted with a complete BDU and boots. A session on uniforms and shoe shining followed.

A graduation ceremony was held on October 12 with the cadets' parents, extended families, and friends in attendance. The cadets' first rank badges were awarded and pinned by their parents. Following the ceremony, parents were invited to stay for the regular meeting and a short class taught by Capt. Cerny on the Airport Traffic Pattern. Also in attendance at this class were visiting cadets and seniors from the Valley squadron who had just completed a tour of the Saint Paul airport and tower operations.

The Saint Paul Cadet Squadron is commanded by Capt. Matt Barrett & Lt. Col. Paul Adams. The cadet commander is Cadet Lt. Kaitlyn Bogan, who was assisted by Cadet Airmen Cassidy Gonsoski, Peter Ryden, and Rebecca Potter. Seniors assisting in the camp were Col. Steve Miller, Capt. Paul Pieper, Capt. Tyra Cerny, and Lt. Scott Johnson.

Additional photos and slide show with music is online at:

<http://www.yourbenefitresource.com/curry.htm>

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August Cadet Awards

- Gen. Carl A. Spaatz Award
- Susanna B. Marking, #1614, SD
- Gen. Ira C. Eaker Award
- Rebekah L. Kepple, IA
- Amelia Earhart Award
- David M. Lucey, MN
 - Cole T. Adema, SD
- Gen. Billy Mitchell Award
- Cassie L. Brownell, IA
 - Christopher B. Oglesby, IA
 - Austin J. Sawyer, IA
 - Justin R. Sawyer, IA
 - Ryan L. Sawyer, IA
 - Andrew J. Tiemann, IA
 - Aubry J. Eaton, KS
 - Veronica M. Olson, MN
 - James E. Sellen, MN
 - David J. Nourse, MO
 - Kevin L. McPherson, NC
 - Sara M. Rutten, NE

August Officer Awards

- Gill Robb Wilson Award
- Maj. Michael A. Provencher, ND
- Paul E. Garber Award
- Lt. Col. Michael E. Madden, KS
 - Lt. Col. Albert F. Moginot, MO
 - Maj. Edward A. Moss, NE
 - Maj. William E. Sander, NE
 - Maj. Nancy C. McKenney, SD
 - Maj. Timothy J. Steppan, SD
- Grover Loening Award
- Lt. Col. Michael E. Madden, KS
 - Capt. Jeffrey B. Bartelt, MN
 - Maj. Timothy J. Steppan, SD
- Yeager Award
- Sr. Mbr. Marlene B. Ahlgren, KS

- Capt. Karen A. Bork, KS
- Sr. Mbr. David O. Britt, KS
- Sr. Mbr. Reed A. Chambers II, KS
- 1st Lt. Lynn E. Haltom, KS
- 2nd Lt. Linette M. Lahan, KS
- 1st Lt. Catherine E. Metcalf, KS
- Sr. Mbr. Scott O. Reynolds, KS
- 2nd Lt. David C. Carlstrom, MN
- Sr. Mbr. Barbara J. Hendricks, MN
- Capt. Marilyn L. Lucas, MN
- 1st Lt. Blane A. Pierson, MN
- 1st Lt. Lt Nicholas R. Schramper, MN

September Cadet Awards

- Amelia Earhart Award
- Joy A. Bork, KS
 - Patrick B. Vinge, MN
- Gen. Billy Mitchell Award
- Christopher B. Oglesby, IA
 - Molly A. Best, MN
 - Amy M. Brennan, MN
 - Kelsey E. Brennan, MN
 - Scott M. Lewis, MN
 - Alex J. McGillick, MN
 - Bethany L. Stepanek, MN
 - Brittany R. McDonald, MO
 - Nicholas D. Schultz, MO
 - Lillian A. Biasotti, ND
 - Brianna L. Tarpey, NE

September Officer Awards

- Paul E. Garber Award
- Maj. S. Blaze Cunningham, MN
 - Maj. Eugene W. Abrams, MO
 - Maj. David E. Plum, MO
 - Maj. Patrick D. Kirwan, NE
 - Maj. Leo J. Becht, SD

- Grover Loening Award
- Capt. Bryce W. Duncan, MN
 - Maj. Mark A. McCormick,

- MN
 - Maj. Chris D. Priest, MN
 - Maj. Melissa Plum, MO
 - Capt. Dan Hollins, NE
- Gen. Benjamin Davis Award
- 1st Lt. James T. McLaughlin, IA
- Yeager Award
- Sr. Mbr. Nanette J. Berg, MN
 - Lt. Col. Marilyn M. Chambers, MN
 - Lt. Col. Thomas M. Hollenhorst, MN
 - Capt. Heather E. McNevin, MN
 - 2nd Lt. Susan R. Narveson, MN
 - 2nd Lt. Kateri D. Wold, MN
 - Sr. Mbr. Phillip Cruz, MO
 - 1st Lt. David Ellis, MO
 - 1st Lt. Bernie J. Faustlin Jr., MO
 - Capt. Richard L. Fiser, MO
 - 2nd Lt. Carla M. Hargis, MO
 - 1st Lt. Carl R. Jantz, MO
 - Maj. Edward J. Leonard, MO
 - 1st Lt. Michael Mannion, MO
 - Sr. Mbr. Timothy G. Mohr, MO
 - Sr. Mbr. Tony R. Robbins, MO
 - Capt. Julie Oldham, MO
 - Capt. Jimmy D. Reeves, MO
 - 1st Lt. Cameron C. Riecker, MO
 - Maj. David L. Roberts, MO
 - Sr. Mbr. Darin R. Sloan, MO
 - 1st Lt. Owen S. Freeland, NE
 - Sr. Mbr. Melissa A. Kapsa, NE

In Memoriam:

Sr. Mbr. Brittany R. McDonald
Platte Valley Squadron
Missouri Wing